

**AGENDA ITEM VI**

**CURRICULAR REVISION**

**UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA-MONROE**

**REQUEST TO TERMINATE THE M.S. PROGRAM IN GEOSCIENCES**

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##### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Beginning in 2003, the Board of Regents entered into a multi-phased process for the review of low-completer programs at state universities and colleges. During the last stage of this comprehensive process, some 114 low-completer programs were still under assessment. In August 2004, the Regents took final actions regarding these programs, apportioning them into different categories for further action depending on program particulars. The M.S. program in Geosciences at the University of Louisiana-Monroe was assigned to Category C, which mandated specific external review by a time certain. The Regents action read as follows:

**The Board of Regents approve temporary maintenance of the 14 low-completer programs listed in Chart C through AY 2005-06. As indicated in Staff Comments, the affected institutions shall submit a self-review document for each program within this category by March 1, 2005. Thereafter, appropriate external consultant/staff reviews shall be scheduled to determine the validity of institutional reasons for low-productivity and, further, what corrective measures are needed to make these programs productive.**

##### **STAFF SUMMARY**

Shortly after the above action was taken, officials at ULM contacted Regents staff to discuss circumstances which led to program low-productivity. Upon conclusion of these discussions, the University determined that the program was no longer an essential component of its institutional degree offerings. Accordingly, in a letter dated March 15, 2005, Dr. Stephen Richters, ULM Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs, informed Regents staff of the University's decisions to request program termination. The staff concurs with the University's request.

##### ***STAFF RECOMMENDATION***

***The staff recommends that the Academic and Student Affairs Committee terminate the M.S. program in Geosciences (CIP Code 40.0601) at the University of Louisiana-Monroe, effective immediately. No new students may be enrolled in this program and all current students shall be afforded an appropriate opportunity to complete their program of studies in a reasonable period of time.***